Message Text

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PANAMA FOR GAO TUCKER, LAB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW OF ENERGY'S ROLE IN U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS

- 1. DEPARTMENT WAS ADVISED BY GAO EARLIER THIS YEAR OF SUBJECT REVIEW FOCUSING ON THE ENERGY INTERDEPENDENCE OF VARIOUS NATIONS INCLUDING MEXICO, CANADA, AND INDONESIA. GAO STAFF HAVE AND ARE CONTINUING TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND INFORMATION PREPARATORY TO VISITING ALL THREE COUNTRIES. GAO WISHES TO VISIT MEXICO CITY BEGINNING JUNE 26 FOR ABOUT 4 WEEKS, DATES OF VISIT ARE SUBJECT TO POSTS' CONCURRENCE.
- 2. FIELD WORK WOULD BE PERFORMED BY THREE-MAN STAFF WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JOHN VANDE SAND, GAO/WASHINGTON IN CHARGE SUPPORTED BY TWO STAFF MEMBERS FROM GAO'S PANAMA OFFICE. SUPERVISORY VISITS WOULD BE MADE BY PHILIP THIBEAU, PROJECT MANAGER, AND JAMES KURIHARA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, AT SOME POINT DURING THE COURSE OF THE REVIEW.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE FIELD WORK WOULD BE TO EXPLORE ISSUES

INVOLVED IN MEXICO'S DESIRE TO MAXIMIZE OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION AND THE UNITED STATES' INTEREST IN OBTAINING INCREASED SUPPLIES FROM MEXICO. BY MEETING WITH OFFICIALS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN ENERGY AND RELATED MATTERS, GAO BELIEVES IT CAN PROVIDE THE CONGRESS A BALANCED REPORT OF U.S. AND MEXICAN VIEWS ON PRESENT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASING MEXICO'S OIL AND GAS OUTPUT. A SIMILAR REPORT ON U.S.-SAUDI ARABIA ENERGY RELATIONS WAS RECENTLY COMPLETED. COPIES OF THIS REPORT BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY TO PROVIDE POST A PERSPECTIVE ON GAO'S APPROACH TO THESE COUNTRY REVIEWS.

4. WHILE INCOUNTRY, GAO TEAM WISHES TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO OFFICIALS:

PEMEX: DIRECTOR GENERAL
SUB DIRECTOR PRODUCCION PRIMARIA
SUB DIRECTOR PRODUCCION INDUSTRIAL
SUB DIRECTOR COMMERCIAL
SUB DIRECTOR FINANZAS

SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
SECRETARY OF PLANNING AND BUDGET
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
UNDER SECRETARY OF RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
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OFFICIAL MAYOR SECRETARIAT OF LABOR
DIRECTOR-IN CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
RELATIONS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
SECRETARY OF HACIENDA
GOVERNOR, BAJA, CALIFORNIA
MEXICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE
PETROLEUM WORKERS UNION

GAO BELIEVES THEIR REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA WAS ENHANCED BY THE WILLINGNESS OF A BROAD RANGE OF SAUDI OFFICIALS TO MEET WITH THEM. THE GAO IS AWARE THAT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE AMBASSADOR, TO BE ARRANGED FOR BY THE EMBASSY AND EMBOFF TO ACCOMPANY, IF FEASIBLE.

5. THE TEAM ALSO WISHES TO CONTACT U.S. AND MEXICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS. GAO ADVISES THAT CONTACTS TO DATE WITH MAJOR U.S. OIL COMPANIES, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, CONSTRUCTION FIRMS, AND GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES INDICATED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THIS TYPE OF GAO REVIEW. ALSO, ADDITIONAL CONTACTS WOULD MOST LIKELY BE IDENTIFIED DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT.

- 6. DETAILS OF TEAM MEMBERS' ARRIVAL DATE AND TIMES, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND SECURITY CLEARANCE ON MEMBERS TO BE NAMED WOULD BE CABLED WHEN KNOWN.
 DEPARTMENT CERTIFIES THAT MESSRS. VANDE SAND, THIBEAU AND KURIHARA HAVE TOP SECRET CLEARANCE.
- 7. IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE GAO AND TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF 4 FAM 930-934. ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS THAT SHOULD ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT, PARTICULARLY REGARDING GAO ACCESS TO AND/OR RETENTION OF DEPARTMENT FILES OR DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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- 8. EMBASSY'S VIEWS REQUESTED CONCERNING ADVISIBILITY OF GAO REVIEW AT THIS TIME AND FEASIBILITY OF INTERVIEWS DESIRED.
- 9. IF EMBASSY CONCURS, THE GAO WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE NAME OF THE EMBASSY OFFICER WHO WILL SERVE AS PROJECT OFFICER FOR THIS VISIT. VANCE

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